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Radium-224

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Radium-224*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C29775.

A short-lived, alpha-emitting isotope found in ground water and soils, Radium-224 has been used in biomedical treatments. Radium-224 in drinking water is a potential health risk due to its carcinogenic effects. In the first days after intake, radium heavily concentrates in endosteal bone. Because of the 3.5-day half-life, most Ra-224 decays while on bone surfaces, possibly inducing sarcomas in cells within range of the emitted alpha particles. (NCI04)